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CITY OF PERTH



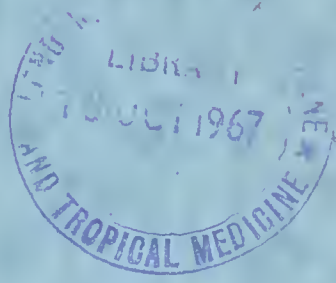
REPORT
OF THE HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

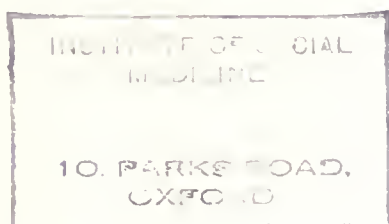
10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

For the Year 1949

66078



CITY OF PERTH



REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH OF PERTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949

JOHN M. AITKEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM McBRYDE, M.R.San.I.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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Health Department,
22 York Place,
Perth.

May, 1950.

*To the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the City and Royal
Burgh of Perth, and to the Department of Health for Scotland.*

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the City of Perth, for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

The past year has been a period of consolidation, following the redistribution of the duties and functions of the Department, resulting from the introduction of the National Health Service Act. I am very pleased to record that the first year's working of the new Act has functioned very smoothly. Difficulties have arisen, but most of these have been overcome. Nevertheless, co-ordination of the services of the Local Health Authority with those of the Executive Council and the Regional Board could be improved, but as more experience is gained in the working of the new service, it is anticipated that co-ordination will improve.

With regard to the vital statistics of the City, there has, generally speaking, been little change from previous years, the most notable exception being the continued increase in the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis. The death rate from this disease shows a slight fall from the previous year. The birth rate has fallen slightly and the infant mortality rate has shown a slight increase.

Once again I should like to record my deep appreciation of the confidence and support given to me by the Lord Provost and members of the Council during the past year.

To my fellow Officials for their assistance so willingly given at all times, and to all the members of the Health Department, I wish to convey my sincere thanks for their loyal support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M. AITKEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the City of Perth for the Year 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. At 30th June, 1949, the population as estimated by the Registrar General was 40,667, being an increase of 544 on the 1948 figure.

Birth Rate. During the year there was a decrease of 31 in the corrected number of births as compared with 1948. The actual birth rate was 17.8, this being slightly lower than the rate for Scotland, which was 18.5. This fall in the birth rate was general throughout the country.

Illegitimate Birth Rate. The illegitimate birth rate rose to 7.5 as compared with 6.1 for the previous year. Perth had the second highest rate for the large Burghs in Scotland, the rate for Scotland generally being 5.5.

Still Birth Rate. Compared with 1948 the Still Birth Rate showed a slight decrease, the figure being 24 per 1,000 births as compared with 26 in the previous year.

Death Rate. The corrected death rate for 1949 was 12.6, which shows a slight increase compared with the record low figure of 11.7 for 1948. The figure for Scotland was 12.3 and for large Burghs 12.5.

Infant Mortality Rate. The infant mortality rate of 36 per 1,000 live births showed a slight increase over the very low figure of 29 for the previous year. The rate for Scotland was 41 and for large Burghs 44.

Maternal Mortality Rate. The maternal mortality rate of 4.05 showed a slight increase from the record low figure of 2.58 for the previous year, and compared with 1.3 for the whole of Scotland. There were three maternal deaths during the year.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis showed a decrease compared with the previous year, there being 18 deaths from this disease, giving a rate of .44 per 1,000 of the population as compared with the National rate of .59. The mortality rate for non-respiratory tuberculosis showed an increase, the rate being .15 as compared with .02 in 1948.

Deaths from Epidemic Diseases. There were two deaths during the year from the principal epidemic diseases, compared with one during the previous year. Both deaths were due to influenza.

Deaths from Cancer. Of the deaths registered, 76 were due to cancer, giving a death rate of 1.86 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 2.09 for 1948.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Ante-Natal Clinics. The ante-natal clinic at the Dunkeld Road Clinic premises continues to function as formerly. The staff is provided by the Eastern Regional Hospital Board from Perth Royal Infirmary. During the year the number of sessions has increased to three per week. Arrangements have been made whereby the names and addresses of new cases attending the clinic, who are being admitted to hospital for confinement, are supplied to this Department, thereby facilitating these patients being visited by members of the Health Visiting staff.

There were 6,179 attendances at the clinic during the year, being an increase of 1,782 compared with the 1948 figure.

Post-Natal Clinics. Arrangements for post-natal examinations are proving satisfactory. Patients confined in hospital have their examination carried out at the Maternity Department of the Royal Infirmary, whilst domiciliary cases have the examination done by their own family doctor at home.

Child Welfare Clinics. Altogether three doctor's consultation clinics are held weekly at the Child Welfare Clinics. The number of attendances at these clinics during the year amounted to 11,148, being a slight decrease compared with the number attending during 1948.

Toddlers' Clinic. 392 children were examined during the year at the various sessions of this clinic. Appointments are made for this clinic, and each child is given a complete routine examination.

Premature Infants. During the year two premature infants born at home were transferred to the Maternity Department of the Royal Infirmary for specialised care and attention.

Unmarried Mothers and their Children. During the year the staff of Melville House, 129 Scott Street, provided care and attention for 21 unmarried mothers and their children. The same organisation dealt with the various aspects of 24 adoption cases.

Supply of Welfare Foods. The existing arrangements with the Ministry of Food for the supply of welfare foods at the various Child Welfare Clinics of the Local Authority continue to function satisfactorily. During the year 670 tins of National Dried Milk, 108 bottles of Cod Liver Oil, and 336 bottles of Orange Juice were issued.

Day Nurseries. The total number of attendances at each day nursery was :—

Florence Place	13,500
Melville Street	4,873
Westbank.	3,844

Residential Nursery. This past year has been a busier year than ever for the residential nursery. During the year 84 new cases were admitted to the nursery, and the average daily attendance was 18. At the end of the year there were 18 long-term and 2 short-term cases in the nursery.

When the Children's Home at Cleeve is opened it is hoped to transfer these long-term cases, between the ages of 2½ and 5 years, to Cleeve, thus making more accommodation available for short-term cases, for which there is still a great demand.

I should like to take this opportunity of recording my deep appreciation of the services of Miss Donaldson, Supervising Matron of the Nurseries, for the very excellent way she has administered the nurseries since her appointment.

Training of Nursery Nurses. The scheme for training of nurses has continued as formerly. During the year two students completed their first year of training, and seven students passed their examination and received their nursery nurse's certificate.

Dental Care. The arrangements for priority dental care for children under five years of age, and nursing and expectant mothers, as outlined in my last year's report, were put into operation in March of this year. Since then until the end of the year, 19 applications were received for priority treatment. The fees paid to dentists in private practice under the scheme amounted to £23 17s. 6d.

Birth Notifications. The number of notifications of births occurring within the City was 1,188, this being an increase of 14 as compared with the figure for 1948. In 711 cases the usual place of residence was within the City, and showed a decrease of 21 as compared with 1948. 45 per cent of the City cases were confined at home, and of all the births notified 77 per cent occurred in institutions.

Infant Mortality Rate. The rate of 36 per 1,000 live births was slightly above the figure for the previous year, which was the lowest ever recorded in the City. The rate is still very much below the figure for the whole of Scotland, which was 41 per 1,000 live births. 77 per cent of the deaths of children under one year of age took place in the first month of life, and of those deaths in the first month 70 per cent took place in the first week of life. 54 per cent of the deaths of children under one year of age took place in the first week of life.

Family Planning Clinic. This clinic had another very successful year. 151 new cases were dealt with and the total attendances at the clinic numbered 323.

MIDWIFERY.

The two full-time and the two part-time midwives continue to be employed by the Town Council to carry out the work of the Domiciliary Midwifery Service. Three of these midwives have now been trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia.

It is hoped that early in 1950 a car will be made available for the use of the two full-time midwives. This will greatly facilitate the carrying out of their duties, as they now have to travel considerable distances to the outlying housing estates of the City.

Supervision of Midwives. The Assistant Medical Officer of Health acts as Supervisor of Midwives and she has regularly undertaken visits to the homes of the midwives to inspect their equipment and records.

Domiciliary Confinements. During the year 257 applications for maternity services were received. This number compares with 213 for the previous year.

In addition, throughout the year 38 confinements were conducted by midwives in private practice. This compares with 78 for the previous year.

HEALTH VISITING.

Eight Health Visitors are now available for health visiting work. As will be mentioned later, one of these Health Visitors is employed whole-time on work in connection with tuberculosis. During the year 11,474 visits were paid by the Health Visitors. Housing and transport arrangements are the same as those outlined in my previous report.

School Health Work. The Health Visitors carried out 265 visits to schools in connection with cleanliness inspections, in the course of which 14,567 children were examined.

HOME NURSING.

The arrangements made by the Town Council for the Perth District Nursing Society to act as their agents for carrying out home nursing services continue to prove very satisfactory. During the year the Society have had many staffing difficulties, but it is hoped that when more nurses become available to increase the staff as required. At the end of the year the Society employed six nurses who are available whole-time for nursing work, excluding midwifery. During the year the nurses attended 556 patients, carrying out a total of 12,968 visits. The greatest demand for the nurses was during the months of October and November.

Medical Loan Depot. The agency arrangements made between the Perth Branch of the British Red Cross Society and the Perth Sick Nursing Society in connection with the Medical Loan Depot have been continued. During the year 166 articles were loaned out to 116 patients.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

During the year two additional whole-time Helps were engaged, bringing the total number of Helps employed to five. These Helps have mainly been engaged on confinement cases, tuberculosis cases, and cases of chronic sick and aged persons. The women employed in this service have proved to be excellent workers and very understanding of the difficulties of any household where they attend. I should like once again to record my appreciation of the very valuable work they are doing.

During the year 60 persons received help, and of that number 10 were confinement cases. The average period of assistance given was 98½ hours.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination. Arrangements for vaccination as outlined in my last year's report are continuing to work very satisfactorily. The fee to be paid to general practitioners for completing the official record form is not yet fixed, and until this is done it cannot be expected that a complete picture of the vaccination state of the community will be known, as many of the practitioners are not yet returning the completed official form. The reminder sent to parents of every child who has reached the age of six months continues to give a good response. During the year a total of 489 vaccinations was carried out as compared with 362 during the previous year. The number done at the Local Authority's clinics was 257, the remainder being done by general practitioners.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria. Perth continues to have a very high percentage of pre-school children immunised against diphtheria, and at present has the honour of having the second highest percentage in Scotland of pre-school children immunised against the disease. In all during the year 909 children were immunised, as compared with 857 during 1948. A few general practitioners are still deferring submission of the official record forms to the Department, pending the fixing of the scale of remuneration for these forms, and, as in the case of vaccination against smallpox, the true immunisation state of the community will not be known until complete records are available.

During the year 602 children received reinforcing inoculations on their entrance to school. This compares with 349 for 1948. Of the 602 reinforcing inoculations 236 were carried out at the Child Welfare Centres, 315 at the School Clinic, and 51 were done by general practitioners.

Immunisation Against Whooping Cough. Increasing numbers of parents are taking advantage of inoculation against whooping cough. During the year 335 children were immunised against this disease, as compared with 137 during the previous year.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE — TUBERCULOSIS.

The arrangements outlined in last year's report are continuing to operate satisfactorily. Since the employment of one Health Visitor solely on tuberculosis work, the number of contacts of cases examined has greatly increased.

Admissions to Hospital. The position regarding the admission of cases to hospital has improved slightly during the year, more beds being made available by the Regional Board to this area. During the year 75 cases of tuberculosis were admitted to hospital compared with 57 during the previous year.

During the year 5 children were admitted to Westbank Residential Nursery and two to the Day Nurseries to facilitate the admission of a mother to hospital for treatment.

Housing. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Convener and members of the House Management Committee for the sympathetic consideration they have given to the allocation of houses to families where there is a case of tuberculosis. During the year 24 such families were rehoused, as compared with 31 during 1948.

Death Rate. The death rate for respiratory tuberculosis for the year was .44. Whilst this rate is lower than the previous year's, it is still not as low as the figure of .28, the rate for 1938.

The death rate for non-respiratory tuberculosis continues at a fairly low level, being .15 of the population. Of the six deaths in this category four were cases of tuberculous meningitis.

Notifications. The number of new notifications of respiratory tuberculosis has again increased, there having been 67 new cases, as compared with 56 in 1948 and 39 in 1947. The incidence is still greatest between the ages of 15 and 25 years.

Supply of Extra Nourishment, Nursing Requisites, etc. Cod liver oil and malt continues to be supplied free of charge to domiciliary cases of tuberculosis, and on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Physician, 72 persons were supplied with T.T. pasteurised milk at a cost of £349 15s. 5d.

During the year bedding was supplied free of charge to 3 domiciliary cases. 9 nursing requisites were issued through the Medical Loan Depot, and in addition 15 sputum flasks, 15 mugs, and 24 (8 oz.) tins of disinfectant were issued to domiciliary cases.

Co-operation with Ministry of Labour. In co-operation with the Ministry of Labour, 9 persons who suffered from tuberculosis were established in sheltered employment.

Mass Radiography. It is anticipated that the mobile mass radiography unit stationed at Dundee will be visiting Perth early in 1950. It is hoped that the unit will be in the City for some two months, when an opportunity will be given to all employees of the larger industries in the town to have a chest photograph taken. During the visit an opportunity will also be given to all known contacts of cases of tuberculosis to be X-rayed. As the result of a survey some 352 contacts have indicated their desire to be photographed.

B.C.G. Vaccination. The following paragraph has been added to the arrangements relating to tuberculosis made by the Town Council under the provisions of Section 27 (1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 :—

“The Local Authority intends to provide for B.C.G. vaccination, by and at the instance of a physician with special knowledge and experience of tuberculosis and under the administrative responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health, as regards individual persons to whom it is judged to be medically expedient, subject to the necessary preliminary tests, to offer such vaccination in view of their known close

contact with, or susceptibility to, tuberculous infection. Records of B.C.G. vaccinations will be kept in such standard form as may be recommended by the Department of Health for Scotland, and information concerning these records will be supplied to the Department on request."

The proposals have now been approved by the Secretary of State for Scotland, and it is hoped to commence the vaccination of contacts of tuberculosis at an early date.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications. There were 130 notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year, this being a decrease of 18 from the previous year. Of these notifications 26 were cases of scarlet fever, and 67 cases of respiratory tuberculosis.

It is very gratifying to record that for the second year in succession there have been no cases of diphtheria in the City.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases. Again there has been a decrease in the number of non-notifiable diseases reported. During the year 170 such cases were reported, as compared with 321 for 1948. Of this number 122 were cases of whooping cough, 32 cases of chickenpox, and 13 cases of measles.

Scabies. Only 16 cases were notified during the year, 4 of which required admission to hospital for treatment.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the beginning of the year the administration of the City Infectious Diseases Hospital was taken over by the Board of Management for the Perthshire General Hospitals. The Medical staff of the Health Department, however, continued to look after the clinical care of the patients until May. The hospital is now being used entirely for the treatment of cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and all cases of infectious disease from the City are now admitted to King's Cross Hospital, Dundee.

During the year 61 cases of infectious disease were admitted to hospital. Of that number 24 were cases of scarlet fever and 12 were cases of whooping cough.

DETECTION OF PARATYPHOID CARRIERS.

During the month of August an attempt was made to detect the presence of any carriers of paratyphoid fever in the town, by means of bacteriological examination of sewage. The technique employed was that outlined in the monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health for November, 1948. Gauze swabs 4 feet in length and 6 inches wide were placed at suitable points in the four main sewers of the town. The bacteriological examination proved negative. It is hoped to repeat this investigation again in a few months' time, using an improved technique which enables carriers of typhoid fever as well as that of paratyphoid fever to be detected.

FOOD POISONING.

During the months of June and August cases of suspected poisoning were brought to my notice. These cases occurred in persons who presumably became infected following lunch in a catering establishment in the City. None of the cases was so serious as to require admission to hospital. As a result of investigations carried out, salmon was found to be the suspected cause. No specific organism was isolated, but it was found that it was the practice for the management of the establishment to take salmon from a cold store in the City on a Friday and serve this salmon over the week-end. Practically all the cases occurred after partaking of the mid-day meal on the Sunday, and samples of the salmon taken were found to go bad after 48 hours following removal from the cold store. Steps have now been taken by the management to serve salmon as soon as possible after removal from the cold store.

WATER SUPPLY.

One of the common difficulties met with in water supplies is the development of algae (microscopic plants) in open reservoirs, particularly in the summer months. This has provided a troublesome problem in the Perth supply for many years and various methods of eliminating these growths have been tried without much success.

Early in 1949 a new line of attack was brought into use, based on the recently developed "break-point" chlorination technique. While it is too early to claim that this has provided the answer to Perth's algal problems, the results have, so far, been remarkably good. Viewlands Reservoir, usually the locus of greatest algal development, and which supplies 82 per cent of the total consumpt, has been free from algae throughout the year. Owing to the engineering difficulties the treatment cannot at present be fully applied to the high-level reservoirs, and the results obtained, although a marked improvement on previous years, did not reach the high standard which was consistently maintained in Viewlands Reservoir.

Algae, while not in themselves harmful, can give rise to complaints of cloudiness and discoloration of the water and sometimes of unpleasant tastes and odours. There are many varieties, with differing responses to treatment, and this makes the problem of their elimination a difficult one.

The well-tried chloramine treatment which has been in use for the past 17 years is being continued during the winter months and may well prove to be still the best treatment at certain periods of the year.

Throughout 1949 the bacteriological quality of the water distributed has been uniformly of the highest standard.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The arrangements for this service have been continued along the lines as outlined in my report for last year, and are proving satisfactory.

Owing to the lack of accommodation for mental defectives in Baldovan Institution, consideration will require to be given in the near future to the provision of an Occupation Centre in the area.

Mental Illness. During the year 28 cases of mental illness were admitted to hospital, 9 of whom were certified.

At 31st December, 1 case of mental illness was being cared for at home, and 110 cases were being cared for in institutions.

Mental Deficiency. During the year there were 3 new cases of mental deficiency, all of whom were admitted to institutions. 1 was over 16 years of age. No cases were placed under guardianship.

46 City cases of mental deficiency were under treatment in institutions, and 9 cases were being cared for at home.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS ACT, 1948.

No nursery premises are registered in the area, nor are there any persons registered as child minders.

NURSING HOMES (SCOTLAND) REGISTRATION ACT.

The two homes were visited at intervals throughout the year and were found to be run along satisfactory lines.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Only one health lecture and film show was held in a local cinema during the year. The speaker was Dr. A. G. Mearns, Medical Adviser of the Scottish Council for Health Education, his subject being "Venereal Diseases." The meeting was well attended.

Some 15 health talks and cinema shows were given to clubs and organisations in the City during the year. The talks were given by the medical staff of the Department.

During July and August, when cases of infantile paralysis were occurring in other areas of Scotland, opportunity was taken to display posters in the town on the subject of the danger of flies to a community.

During the year propaganda in connection with diphtheria immunisation was continued. This was carried out by means of the showing of special lantern slides in local cinemas and by advertisements in the local Press.

In June a decorated lorry was entered by the Department for the vehicle parade in connection with the Pageant. This vehicle carried such slogans as "Your Best Friend is Good Health" and "For Your Health's Sake Use Your Health Services." I feel that this was a novel and valuable means of Health propaganda.

In May all Secretaries of Women's Organisations in the City were invited to send representatives to a meeting which was held to offer to such organisations a film show and talk on any health topic they cared to choose. This has been a great success—nearly all organisations making a request for a show. At the preliminary meeting specimen films were shown which created great interest. Holding the meeting in May gave these organisations an opportunity of including such talks and film shows in their syllabus for the winter of 1949-50. In Perth there are some 43 women's organisations.

A good deal of work was carried out during the latter months of the year in connection with preparations for the Health Week in February, 1950, but unfortunately owing to the General Election taking place the same week the project had to be abandoned, but it is hoped to hold the "Week" during February, 1951. During the week it was intended to have an intensive campaign dealing with the clean handling of food and already preliminary meetings have been held with representatives of the various food traders in the City.

I should like once again to record my sincere thanks to Mr. Michie of Messrs. David Allen & Sons for his kindness in displaying posters throughout the City. He is always most helpful and obliging.

PROBLEM FAMILIES.

A problem family is one where the conditions of the home are dirty and disordered, and the care of the children is bad. The standards of home life of such a family are so low as to interfere with the normal development of the children. One or other or both parents are very frequently mentally subnormal.

Every town has its problem families and this town is no exception. These families very often absorb a good deal of the time of members of the staff of the various departments of the Local Authority, and usually hardly a day passes but a representative of the local authority pays a visit to the household with the result that the value of a visit from an Official ceases to have the desired effect. Being interested in this problem, I made a survey of the position in this town and have compiled case records of 50 such families. Low intelligence of the parents appears to be a common factor in most cases. Alcoholism occasionally plays a part, but not often.

An experiment is at present being made by supplying Home Help to some of these families, where it is considered that the mother would be a suitable person to benefit from instruction in housekeeping. I hope in my next report to indicate the results of this experiment dealing with this most difficult problem.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

During the year there has been a considerable reduction in the number of cases of gonorrhoea attending for treatment. The number of cases of syphilis remains almost the same as for the previous year, there having been 35 new City cases of acquired syphilis.

The number of persons failing to complete their treatment continues to be smaller each year.

ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICE.

The number of cases attending the orthopaedic clinic continues to increase, there being 194 new pre-school City cases during the year as compared with 95 during 1948. At the end of the year 380 pre-school children were attending for treatment and supervision. Three cases

were admitted to the wards of Bridge of Earn Hospital during the year for treatment.

ACCIDENTS.

Vehicular. During the year there were 113 accidents reported to the Chief Constable caused by vehicular traffic. As a result of these accidents 4 persons were killed and the number of injured persons was 122. Of the injured 33 were seriously injured and 89 slightly. 35 of the injured persons were under 15 years of age.

Non-Vehicular. A total of 99 such accidents was reported to the Police during the year, involving some 103 persons. Of this number 10 persons were killed and 19 seriously and 38 slightly injured. Of the total number involved 82 were over 15 years of age, 11 between the ages of 5 and 15, and 10 under 5 years of age.

Arrangements have been made with the hospital authorities to furnish this Department with statistics regarding the admission of cases resulting from accidents in the persons' own homes. It is hoped to publish these figures in my Report for 1950.

Opportunity has been taken during the year to deal with this subject of prevention of accidents, in various lectures, talks and film shows given to organisations in the City.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Schemes. During the year a Scheme was prepared by the Town Council for the provision of residential accommodation for aged and infirm persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, and also for persons urgently requiring temporary accommodation. This Scheme was duly approved by the Department of Health for Scotland and provided that in general the Town Council would exercise their functions under the Act so as to provide adequately for the comfort and well-being of residents in the light of their particular needs. To achieve this aim, efforts were made to obtain, in addition to that already provided at Bertha Home, other residential accommodation, by way of purchase and conversion of any large house, suitably situated. Unfortunately, for one reason or another, these efforts met with no success, but as it is clearly necessary to provide different descriptions of additional residential accommodation for different classes of persons the matter will be under continuous consideration. However, it is good to be able to record that the Town Council have erected in the Moncreiffe Housing Scheme 12 two-apartment houses for ageing persons. This is very encouraging, but does not in any way solve the problem of those ageing and handicapped persons needing care and attention.

Approval was also given by the Department of Health to the Town Council's Scheme for promoting the welfare of handicapped persons, i.e., blind, deaf, dumb, crippled, etc., and although nothing worthy of special note was achieved during the year, steps were taken, as far as practicable, to implement the provisions of the Scheme.

It is recognised that the new welfare service envisaged for handicapped persons confronts Local Authorities with what is more or less to them a new field of endeavour. The welfare of the blind has been dealt with by Local Authorities since 1920, but that of deaf, dumb, crippled, and other handicapped persons is new and opens up a very wide field of service.

The duties laid on the Town Council under the Act are undoubtedly of extreme importance to the welfare of ageing and handicapped persons, and it is realised that only by careful and long-term planning can the promotion of such welfare be attained. The scarcity of suitable houses for adaptation as well as building restrictions combine to retard the provision of improved residential accommodation.

The question of welfare in relation to ageing persons is presently actively engaging the thoughts of all concerned with the social services. In the City, as elsewhere throughout the country, considerable attention is being devoted to the visitation and welfare in the home of ageing persons, where this appears necessary, and locally several voluntary bodies have performed very useful work in this direction during the year, notably the Old People's Welfare Council, Old Age Pensioners' Association, Indigent Old Men's Society, and the Society for the Relief of Indigent Old Women. The Old Men's Club also performs a very useful function in providing recreation for its members in their clubrooms in Princes Street.

In regard to the handicapped, the Report of the Advisory Council on the Welfare of Handicapped Persons is awaited with interest, as it should be a valuable guide and lead to those concerned with the welfare of handicapped persons.

Bertha Home continued to be used for providing residential and temporary accommodation. The sick wards are still being used by the Eastern Regional Hospital Board for the care of chronic sick and mental patients and, unfortunately, it may be some time until the Board is in a position to provide for these patients elsewhere. The medical care of residents and patients in the Home is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the Act it is necessary for any person carrying on within the City a disabled persons' or old persons' home to register with the Local Authority. There were, during the year, no such homes in the City. However, it is pleasing to be able to record that Bowerswell, dedicated as the City's War Memorial to the fallen of the 1939-45 War, is now in its final stages of furnishing and decorating for its use as a Home for Old People and it is hoped that soon after the beginning of the New Year the first of its residents will be admitted to enjoy its comforts. Bowerswell itself will only accommodate about 22 residents, but as soon as building restrictions will allow, it is the intention of the Bowerswell Committee

to proceed with the erection of 20 houses (10 blocks of double cottage type) suitable for ageing married couples.

The following bodies were registered with the Local Authority as being associations concerned with the promotion of the welfare of disabled persons, viz :—

The Society for Teaching the Blind to Read in the Counties of Perth and Kinross, and

The Perth Mission to the Deaf and Dumb.

Power is given in the Act for the compulsory removal to hospital, or other premises, of persons suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, living in insanitary conditions and not receiving proper care and attention. This power was not made use of during the year.

It was necessary in respect of one person to take charge of and store her movable property after her admission to hospital.

Six burials were carried out by the Local Authority of persons in respect of whom no arrangements were being made.

TABLE No. 1.
VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population, 40,667 (middle of 1949). Area of Burgh, 4,122 acres.
Population, 1931 Census, 35,051. No. of inhabited houses, 11,789.
Estimated Pre-School Population, 3,551. Gross Valuation, £422,642.
Estimated School Population, 5,922. Rateable Value, £398,818.

	Cor- rected Number	Rate per 1,000 of estimated Popu- lation	Corres- ponding Rate for 1948	Rate for	
				Scot- land	Large Burghs
Births (total live births) .	723	17.8	18.8	18.5	18.5
Births—Illegitimate (per 100 live births)	54	7.5	6.1	5.5	5.3
Still births (per 1,000 births, including still births) .	18	24.0	26.0	27.0	28.0
Deaths	512	12.6	11.7	12.3	12.5
Tuberculosis (all forms) .	24	.59	.57	.67	.85
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	18	.44	.55	.59	.76
Epidemic Diseases . . .	2	.05	.02	.11	.11
Children under 1 year (per 1,000 live births) .	26	36.0	29.0	41.0	44.0
Children under 1 month (per 1,000 live births) .	20	27.6	19.89	23.0	—
Women in childbirth (per 1,000 births, including still births	3	4.05	2.58	1.3	—

TABLE No. 2.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

	Number	Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Corresponding Rate for 1948
Deaths from Influenza	2	.05	—
Deaths from Measles	—	—	.02
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	18	.44	.55
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	6	.15	.02

TABLE No. 3.

DEATHS FROM SYSTEMIC DISEASES.

	Number	Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Corresponding Rate for 1948
Diseases of the Cardio- Vascular System	243	5.97	5.46
Cancer	76	1.86	2.09
Diseases of the Respiratory System (Non-Tuber- culous)	39	.95	.75
Diseases of the Digestive System.	34	.83	.4
Diseases of the Genito- Urinary System	23	.56	.35
Diseases of the Nervous System.	7	.17	.3

TABLE No. 4.
INFANTILE DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week		1 and under 4 weeks		1 and under 3 months		3 and under 6 months		6 and under 12 months		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	Total		Total		Total		Total		Total		Total	
Atelectasis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Broncho-pneumonia	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Congenital Debility	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital Malformation	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	5	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	3
Totals	10	4	3	3	-	2	1	-	-	3	14	12
Total	26											

TABLE No. 5.
MATERNAL DEATHS.

	1948	1949
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	2	3
Total	2	3

TABLE No. 6.
MORTALITY AT THE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS.

	1948			1949		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Under 1 year	9	13	22	14	12	26
1 and under 5 years	3	1	4	5	2	7
5 and under 10 years	—	—	—	1	2	3
10 and under 15 years	1	1	2	1	—	1
15 and under 25 years	5	5	10	4	8	12
25 and under 35 years	5	7	12	6	5	11
35 and under 45 years	16	8	24	13	10	23
45 and under 55 years	22	18	40	23	14	37
55 and under 65 years	37	36	73	47	24	71
65 and under 75 years	68	63	131	62	75	137
75 and under 85 years	52	66	118	60	77	137
85 years and over	8	25	33	21	26	47
Totals	226	243	469	257	255	512

TABLE No. 7.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1949.

	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Total	Cases re- moved to Hospital	Cases not removed to Hospital
Dysentery . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1
Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal . .	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	1
Pneumonia, Acute Primary . .	—	1	1	1	2	3	1	—	9	4	5
Puerperal Fever . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia . .	—	—	—	2	4	1	—	—	7	7	—
Scarlet Fever . .	—	16	9	—	1	—	—	—	26	24	2
Tuberculosis, Respiratory . .	—	6	5	24	10	9	13	—	67	40	27
Tuberculosis, Non-Respiratory . .	—	4	6	2	1	1	1	—	15	10	5
Totals . .	1	27	21	30	18	16	16	1	130	89	41

TABLE No 8
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1949.

	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal	Pneumonia, Acute Primary	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis Respiratory	Tuberculosis Non- Respiratory	Totals
January	-	-	-	3	-	-	5	12	1	21
February	-	-	2	4	-	3	1	3	3	16
March	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	6	1	13
April	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	1	10
May	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	6
June	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	3	11
July	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	4
August	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	7	1	12
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	8
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	2	12
November	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	9
December	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	-	8
TOTALS	1	2	2	9	1	7	26	67	15	130

TABLE No. 9.
NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
 (Pre-School Children notified by Health Visitors.)

	Chickenpox	German Measles	Measles	Mumps	Whooping Cough	Totals
January	3	—	1	—	5	9
February	—	—	—	—	13	13
March	—	—	1	—	21	22
April	—	1	4	—	32	37
May	—	—	2	—	23	25
June	—	—	—	—	3	3
July	—	—	2	—	5	7
August	1	—	2	—	11	14
September	2	—	1	—	1	4
October	2	—	—	2	2	6
November	10	—	—	—	1	11
December	14	—	—	—	5	19
Total	32	1	13	2	122	170

TABLE No 10
VACCINATIONS.

	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th Day	Accelerated (Vaccinoid) Re-action, 5th-7th Day	Re-action greatest at 2nd-3rd Day	No local Re-action	TOTAL
No. Vaccinated at Child Welfare Centres	215	13	—	29	257
No. Vaccinated by General Practitioners	200	5	1	26	232
	415	18	1	55	489

TABLE No 11
RE-VACCINATIONS.

	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th Day	Accelerated (Vaccinoid) Re-action, 5th-7th Day	Re-action greatest at 2nd-3rd Day	No local Re-action	TOTAL
No. Re-Vaccinated at Child Welfare Centres	2	—	—	—	2
No. Re-Vaccinated by General Practitioners	14	2	7	—	23
	16	2	7	—	25

TABLE No. 12.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Year of Birth	Immunised at Child Welfare Centres		Immunised by General Practitioners		Refused	Died	Removed to other Areas	TOTAL
	Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whoop. Cough	Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whoop. Cough				
1941 .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1942 .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1943 .	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
1944 .	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
1945 .	10	—	—	—	3	—	—	13
1946 .	18	—	8	—	1	—	—	27
1947 .	49	—	33	12	—	—	5	99
1948 .	389	—	253	35	5	4	40	726
1949 .	64	—	20	8	5	22	20	139
Totals .	530	—	324	55	14	26	65	1014

TABLE No. 13
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS—MAINTENANCE INOCULATIONS.

	YEAR OF BIRTH								TOTAL
	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
No. Immunised at Child Welfare Centres .	—	—	—	—	—	3	162	70	1
No. Immunised by General Practitioners .	—	1	1	1	4	7	31	5	1
No. Immunised by School Medical Officers .	1	51	8	2	8	51	191	3	—
TOTALS	1	52	9	3	12	61	384	78	2

TABLE No. 14.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS.

Year	Total No. Immunised.
1940	690
1941	1690
1942	488
1943	502
1944	600
1945	588
1946	478
1947	658
1948	857
1949	909

TABLE No. 15.
WHOOPIING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

	YEAR OF BIRTH								Total
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	
No. of Children Immunised	1	4	13	27	25	71	147	47	335

TABLE No. 16.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR IN WHICH DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Total	
RESPIRATORY	Males	—	5	—	3	12	5	4	8	—	37
	Females	—	1	—	2	12	5	5	5	—	30
	Total	—	6	—	5	24	10	9	13	—	67
NON- RESPIRATORY	Males	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	8
	Females	—	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	7
	Total	—	4	6	—	2	1	1	1	—	15
RESPIRATORY AND NON- RESPIRATORY	Males	—	7	5	3	12	5	4	9	—	45
	Females	—	3	1	2	14	6	6	5	—	37
	Total	—	10	6	5	26	11	10	14	—	82

TABLE No. 17.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN THE AREA AT 31st DECEMBER, 1949, WHO WERE KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

A. RESPIRATORY.

		Number of Cases in Age Groups									Total
		Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1. Sputum or other material examined and tubercle bacilli found.	Males	—	—	—	—	10	10	9	14	2	45
	Females	—	—	—	—	12	20	5	3	1	41
2. Sputum or other material examined and tubercle bacilli never found.	Males	—	3	1	8	17	18	13	15	2	77
	Females	—	1	4	4	18	16	5	9	2	59
3. Sputum or other material not examined.	Males	—	1	1	4	4	9	3	2	—	24
	Females	—	2	1	3	4	5	—	1	1	17
TOTALS		—	7	7	19	65	78	35	44	8	263

B. — NON-RESPIRATORY.

	Number of Cases in Age Groups										Total
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
1. Abdominal.											
Males	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	
Females	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—	1	7	
2. Spine.											
Males	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	
Females	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	
3. Bones and Joints (exclusive of Spine).											
Males	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	2	—	8	
Females	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	5	
4. Superficial Glands.											
Males	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	
Females	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	—	1	7	
5. Lupus.											
Males	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Females	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
6. Other parts or Organs.											
Males	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Females	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3	
Total	—	1	11	7	4	14	2	5	2	46	
RESPIRATORY & NON- RESPIRATORY TOTALS	—	8	18	26	69	92	37	49	10	309	

TABLE No. 18.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO DIED FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR, WITH PARTICULARS AS TO PERIOD ELAPSING BETWEEN NOTIFICATION AND DEATH.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Not notified or notified only at or after death .	1	1	—	—
Notified less than 1 month before death .	1	—	—	—
Notified from 1 to 3 months before death .	—	1	—	1
Notified from 3 to 6 months before death .	1	1	1	—
Notified from 6 to 12 months before death .	5	—	2	1
Notified from 1 to 2 years before death .	—	4	—	—
Notified over 2 years before death .	2	1	1	—
Total	10	8	4	2
Number who died within 28 days after discharge from an institution	1	—	—	—
Number who died more than 28 days after discharge from an institution	—	2	—	—

TABLE No. 19.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES WHICH RECEIVED TREATMENT UNDER THE TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME IN SANATORIA OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

		NUMBER OF PATIENTS.				
		In Institutions on January 1st	Admitted during year	Discharged during year	Died in the Institutions	In Institutions on December 31
RESPIRATORY	Males	15	35	27	5	18
	Females	12	20	16	2	14
	Males	2	4	4	—	2
	Females	1	4	2	—	3
NON- RESPIRATORY	Males	3	1	1	—	3
	Females	1	7	5	—	3
	Males	6	2	2	3	3
	Females	2	2	1	2	1
Totals		42	75	58	12	47

TABLE No. 20.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED DURING EACH MONTH OF 1949.

	Burgh Cases			Other Areas	Total	Still-born	Premature	Illegitimate
	Males	Females	Total					
January	32	26	58	37	95	4	10	4
February	29	21	50	46	96	4	7	1
March	47	37	84	42	126	5	15	4
April	32	28	60	39	99	2	5	4
May	25	36	61	39	100	—	—	3
June	33	25	58	37	95	1	4	—
July	25	29	54	51	105	4	5	5
August	28	32	60	33	93	2	8	4
September	19	22	41	39	80	1	5	2
October	39	23	62	34	96	1	7	3
November	32	24	56	40	96	3	6	2
December	40	27	67	40	107	3	8	2
Totals	381	330	711	477	1188	30	80	34

TABLE No. 21.

BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

	Attended by a Midwife alone	Attended by a Doctor alone	Attended by a Doctor and Midwife	Attended by neither a Doctor nor a Midwife	Total
January	45	—	50	—	95
February	51	—	45	—	96
March	54	1	70	1	126
April	52	1	46	—	99
May	43	—	56	1	100
June	41	1	53	—	95
July	45	1	59	—	105
August	44	—	49	—	93
September	45	—	35	—	80
October	51	—	45	—	96
November	58	—	38	—	96
December	62	—	45	—	107
Totals	591	4	591	2	1188

TABLE No. 22.
BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

	Domiciliary	No. of Births occurring in Perth Royal Infirmary	No. of Births in Private Nursing Homes	Total
January . . .	15	65	15	95
February . . .	22	51	23	96
March . . .	31	66	29	126
April . . .	20	62	17	99
May . . .	24	49	27	100
June . . .	16	62	17	95
July . . .	21	65	19	105
August . . .	23	56	14	93
September . . .	19	48	13	80
October . . .	15	66	15	96
November . . .	20	61	15	96
December . . .	22	63	22	107
Totals . . .	248	714	226	1188

TABLE No. 23.
BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

Total No. of Births, including still births notified during the year	1188
(i) Cases dealt with under Section 23 (2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947	
(a) Doctor engaged and present at confinement	58
(b) Doctor engaged but not present at confinement	152
(c) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	—
(ii) Other domiciliary cases.	
(a) Doctor engaged	38
(b) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	—
(c) Conducted by outdoor staff of an institution	—
(d) Without doctor or midwife	—
(iii) Cases conducted at institutions (including private maternity and nursing homes) in the area of the Local Health Authority	940

TABLE No. 24.
DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

	Whole-time Midwives	Part-time Midwives	Total
No. of applications received during the year	173	84	257
No. of confinements during the year.			
Attended by a midwife alone	117	33	150
Attended by a doctor alone	—	—	—
Attended by a doctor and midwife	29	29	58
Neither a doctor nor a midwife present at the confinement	—	2	2
TOTALS	146	64	210
No. sent to Hospital on account of abnormalities or unsuitable housing accommodation	12	5	17

TABLE No 25
MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1915 AND 1927.
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947.

	Total Births occurring in the area	Domiciliary cases under Section 23 of National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947			Other domiciliary cases attended by Midwives (i.e. cases in which no Doctor has been booked)	Cases attended by Midwives in Institutions	Cases not attended by Midwife or Doctor
		Doctor engaged and present at confinement	Doctor engaged but not present at confinement	Midwife alone (No Doctor engaged)			
Births	1188	58	152	—	—	—	—
Deaths of new-born children (within 14 days of birth)	17	2	1	—	—	—	—
Still-births	30	5	—	—	—	—	—
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis— Cases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia— Cases	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 26
MATERNITY DEPARTMENT—PERTH ROYAL INFIRMARY.

Total No. of Admissions to the Maternity Department	No. of Births occurring in the Maternity Department		No. of Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinic	No. of Persons attending the Ante-Natal Clinic	
	Perth City	Perth and Fife Counties		Perth City	Perth and Fife Counties
762	337	377	6179	327	445
		714			772

TABLE No. 27.
THE WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

	Initial Visits	Total No. of Visits	Total No. Visited
Children under 1 year . . .	599	4039	769
Children 1 to 5 years . . .	11	6046	2962
Expectant Mothers . . .	106	205	150
Tuberculosis Cases . . .	45	1028	305
Hospital Cases . . .	2	2	2
Cases for General Practitioners .	10	10	10
Others . . .	141	144	141
TOTALS . . .	914	11,174	4339

TABLE No. 28.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE—VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS.

	No. of Visits paid to the Schools.	No. of Children examined for the first time during the month.	No. of Children re-examined during the month.	No. of Children examined as infectious disease contacts.	No. of visits paid to children's homes during month.
January	30	1553	376	69	26
February	24	1048	216	—	4
March	35	1132	434	—	10
April	11	544	33	—	1
May	30	1848	236	—	2
June	19	712	371	—	3
July	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—
September	33	1899	267	38	5
October	29	982	531	26	12
November	35	1058	524	38	15
December	19	227	405	—	9
TOTALS	265	11003	3393	171	87

TABLE No. 29.
CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

	No. of children attending for first time during the year			Total No. of Children attending during the year		
	Under 1	Over 1	Total	Under 1	Over 1	Total
South Street . . .	364	91	455	450	771	1221
Muirton . . .	128	32	160	158	124	282
Totals . . .	492	123	615	608	895	1503
	Number of Attendances at Clinics					
	Consultation Clinic	Toddlers Clinic	Seen by Nurses	Total	Under 1	Over 1
South Street . . .	2392	392	5890	8674	5277	1893
Muirton . . .	881	—	1593	2474	1556	619
Totals . . .	3273	392	7483	11148	6833	2512
					1803	11148

TABLE No. 30.
ULTRA-VIOLET RAY CLINICS.

	First Attendances	Number Attending	Total Attendances
South Street Clinic . .	87	360	1853
Muirton Clinic . .	15	38	70
Total . .	102	398	1923

TABLE No. 31.
DAY NURSERIES.

	No. of places provided at end of year		No. of places taken up at end of the year		Average daily attendance		Total attendances
	Under 2	Aged 2-5	Under 2	Aged 2-5	Under 2	Aged 2-5	
Florence Place	27	28	25	30	23	25	13,500
Melville Street	—	22	—	22	—	17	4,873
Westbank .	—	18	—	18	—	15	3,844
TOTALS	27	68	25	70	23	57	22,217

	Under 2	Aged 2-5	Total
No. on Waiting List at end of the year (for all the Nurseries) . . .	46	64	110

TABLE No. 32.
WESTBANK RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.

No. of Beds provided at the end of the year.			Children admitted during year	Children discharged during year	Average daily Attendances
Under 2	Aged 2-5	Others			
13	5	—	84	83	18

TABLE No. 33.
HOME HELP SCHEME.

	No. of Cases who received assistance	No. of hours of help given	Average period of assistance
Maternity Cases . . .	10	315 $\frac{3}{4}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours
Cases of Illness . . .	24	1513 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 „
Aged persons . . .	19	2990	157 „
Tuberculosis cases . . .	6	1045 $\frac{1}{2}$	174 „
To improve Household .	1	45	45 „
	60	5909 $\frac{3}{4}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

	Whole-time	Part-time	Retaining fee basis
No. of Home Helps employed at end of year	5	—	—

TABLE No. 34.
HOME NURSING SERVICE.

	Number of Cases.			No. of Visits.
	New Cases	Old Cases	Total	
January	32	71	103	914
February	47	74	121	933
March	33	72	105	935
April	32	64	96	908
May	44	69	113	1025
June	40	81	121	942
July	29	72	101	879
August	33	65	98	1072
September	53	70	123	1304
October	58	86	144	1387
November	41	97	138	1402
December	43	85	128	1267
TOTALS	485	906	1391	12968

TABLE No. 35.
BERTHA HOME.
 RETURN OF PATIENTS IN SICK WARDS.

	In wards at end of last year	Admitted during year	Discharged	Died	Remaining in Wards at end of year
Males	28	76	56	25	23
Females	28	55	31	27	25
Totals	56	131	87	52	48
1948	60	77	47	34	56

TABLE No. 36.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

RETURN OF CASES TREATED AT VENEREAL DISEASES CENTRE DURING 1949.

	Syphilis				Gonorrhoea		Venereal conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea		Total Venereal		Non-Venereal	
	Acquired		Congenital		Total		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.						
1. On Register at 1st Jan.	34	24	2	5	36	29	17	7	53	36	—	—
2. Re-admitted to Regis. resumpt. of treatment of the same infection, i.e. Defaulters re'ning	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	1
3. Transfers-in from Approved Centres	4	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	5	1	1	—
4. New cases	24	9	4	5	28	14	22	3	72	18	28	9
5. Totals (1, 2, 3 & 4).	62	36	6	10	68	46	39	10	130	57	29	10
6. Defaulted before completion of treatment	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
7. Defaulted after completion of treatment, but before test of cure	—	9	—	2	—	11	3	2	3	13	—	—
8. Transferred to other Centres	9	5	—	3	9	8	9	2	26	10	—	—
9. Discharged cured or as Non-Venereal	19	3	2	—	21	3	19	4	51	7	27	9
10. Died while on Register	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. On Register at 31st December	31	18	4	5	35	23	8	2	47	26	2	1
12. Totals (6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)	62	36	6	10	68	46	39	10	130	57	29	10
Attendances for Medical Consultation	685	523	15	76	700	599	119	43	915	652	67	18
Admitted for indoor Treatment	2	2	—	1	2	3	—	—	3	3	—	—
No. of Days' Residence	36	39	—	21	36	60	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 37.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

NEW CASES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE.

	Syphilis				Gonorrhoea		Venereal conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea		Total Venereal		Non-Venereal	
	Acquired		Congenital		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.								
1. Under 1 year . . .	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—	1	2	1	—
2. 1 and under 5 years . .	—	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	2	1	3	1
3. 5 and under 15 years . .	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
4. 15 and under 25 years . .	2	2	—	—	2	2	7	1	13	3	9	2
5. 25 and under 35 years . .	11	6	—	1	11	7	11	1	31	9	9	6
6. Over 35 years . . .	11	1	—	—	11	1	4	1	24	2	5	—
Totals . . .	24	9	4	5	28	14	22	1	72	18	28	9

TABLE No 38.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

NEW CASES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE AREAS IN WHICH THE PATIENTS RESIDE.

	Syphilis			Gonorrhoea	Venereal conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea	Total Venereal	Non-Venereal
	Acquired	Congenital	Total				
PERTH CLINIC— Cases belonging to Perth City	25	8	33	13	11	57	20
Cases belonging to other areas in Scotland .	8	1	9	12	12	33	17
Cases belonging to areas outside Scotland .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	33	9	42	25	23	90	37
DUNDEE CLINIC— Cases belonging to Perth City	2	—	2	7	2	11	2
TOTAL	35	9	44	32	25	101	39

TABLE No. 39.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

EXAMINATIONS OF PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

	MICROSCOPICAL			SERUM TESTS		C.S. FLUID TESTS	
	Treponema Pallidum	Gonococci	Other Organisms	Syphilis	Others	Syphilis	Others
Specimens examined by the staff of the Centre	30	219	74	229	---	8	---
Specimens from persons attending the Centre which were sent for examination to an approved laboratory	—	22	—	140	39	—	—
Totals .	30	241	74	369	39	8	—

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Sanitary Department,
22 York Place,
Perth, 22nd May, 1950.

*To the Department of Health for Scotland and the Lord Provost, Magistrates
and Council of the City of Perth.*

My Lord Provost, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department of the City of Perth for the year 1949.

PREFACE.

The year under review has shown continued improvements in the environmental aspects of the health of the City.

Since the transfer of some of the functions previously carried out by Local Authorities to other bodies, increasing attention is being given by the Authorities and the public to the preventive aspects, such as the protection of water supplies, food and milk supplies, and ice cream.

It can be said with some confidence that attention given to such matters will give results of perhaps even greater benefit to the health of the community than much of the time and money now being spent on purely curative measures.

STAFF.

The Inspectors employed on the staff of the Sanitary Department are as follows :—

- 1 Depute Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Apprentice Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Lady Housing Inspector.

HOUSING.

The issue of the latest circular from the Department of Health calling for Annual Reports was awaited with interest, but it appears that all the previous comments of Sanitary Inspectors throughout the country have gone unheeded and we still look in vain for any reference to the subject of Housing as being worthy of inclusion in such reports.

Despite this continued omission, however, I make no apology for again giving this matter priority over all other aspects concerning the work of a Sanitary Inspector.

Much time is taken up each day in coping with housing problems, listening to details of the unfortunate circumstances of the never-ending stream of housing applicants and rendering such assistance as can be given under present conditions. These problems take up not only the time of the officials, but I think most Councillors will agree that the housing question is the one in which their constituents show most interest and concerning which most direct appeals are made to them.

UNFIT HOUSES.

The detrimental effects of bad housing conditions on the general health of the people cannot be over-emphasised, and whilst the lack of sufficient alternative accommodation prevents the wholesale closure and clearance of unfit houses, the following properties were the subject of closing or demolition orders under the Housing (Scotland) Acts during the year :—

Property.	No. of Houses.	Order.
42 Commercial Street.	1	Voluntary Undertaking.
19 East Bridge Street.	1	" "
4 St. Ann's Lane	1	" "
8 St. Ann's Lane	1	" "
40 Meal Vennel.	2	Town Council Property.
47 Meal Vennel.	1	" " "
27 Skinnergate.	1	Voluntary Undertaking.
142 South Street.	1	" " "
186 South Street.	1	Let to Town Council.
212 South Street.	1	Voluntary Undertaking.
169 South Street.	1	" "
49 Pomarium Street.	1	" "
55 Victoria Street.	1	" "
Craigie Wood Cottage.	1	" "
25 Cross Street.	1	Town Council Property.
27 Cross Street.	2	" " "
29 Cross Street.	1	" " "
13 Cutlog Vennel.	2	Voluntary Undertaking.
77 Kinnoull Causeway.	1	" "
49 Stormont Street.	1	" "
22 Union Lane.	2	" "
10 Barrack Street.	1	Closing Order.
12 Barrack Street.	5	" "
14 Barrack Street.	1	" "
20 Longcauseway.	1	Town Council Property.
22 Longcauseway.	1	" " "
28 Longcauseway.	1	" " "
21 South Methven Street.	1	Voluntary Undertaking.
4 South Methven Street.	3	Town Council Property.

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PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

During the past year new houses were provided as follows :—

Houses erected by Private Enterprise:-

3 apts. ...	4 houses
4 apts. ...	11 houses
5 apts. ...	2 houses

Total 17 houses.

Private houses under construction during 1949—4 apts. 3 houses.

Corporation Houses completed during 1949 :

Moncreiffe—

Miller's "No Fines"	. 4 apts.	50 houses.	
Traditional	. . . 4 "	44 "	
Traditional	. . . 5 "	4 "	
		—	98 houses.

Darnhall, 4th Dev.—

Traditional	. . . 4 apts.	36 "	
Traditional	. . . 5 "	8 "	
		—	44 "

Letham, 1st Dev.—

Whitson-Fairhurst	. . . 4 apts.	76 "	
Orlit	. . . 4 "	16 "	
Blackburn	. . . 4 "	34 "	
Atholl	. . . 4 "	10 "	
		—	136 "
		Total	278 houses.

Corporation houses under construction during 1949 :

Moncreiffe—

Ageing Persons	. . . 2 apts.	12 houses.	12 houses.
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Darnhall, 4th Dev.—

Traditional	. . . 4 apts.	36 houses.	
Traditional	. . . 5 "	2 houses.	
		—	38 "

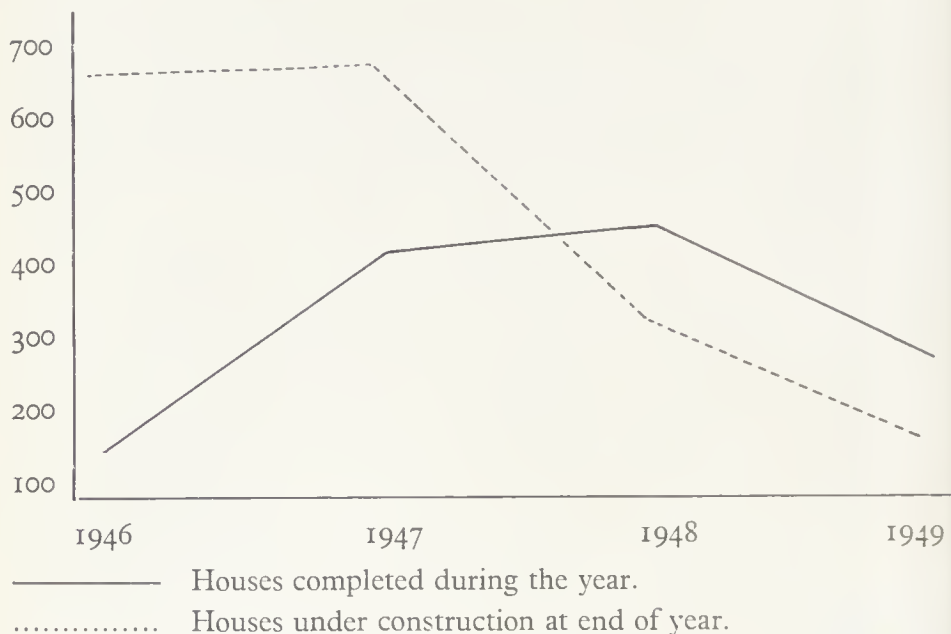
Letham, 1st Dev.—

Blackburn	. . . 4 apts.	26 houses.	
Atholl	. . . 4 "	40 "	
Atholl	. . . 4 "	12 "	
Traditional	. . . 4 "	20 "	
		—	88 "
			148 houses.

Reviewing the progress made during the past four post-war years in the completion of Corporation houses in Perth in relation to the number under construction at the end of each year, we find the position was as follows :—

	Houses completed during year.	Houses under construction at end of year.
1946	150	630
1947	402	646
1948	411	274
1949	278	148

The position might be illustrated graphically thus :—



The number of houses completed during the year was 278, the ^{SECOND} lowest of the post-war years, and the number under construction at the end of the year fell to the low figure of 148, less than a quarter of the number under construction at the end of 1946, the first post-war year.

The outlook at the moment is far from satisfactory, since everything points to the number likely to be completed during the current year reaching an even lower level than last year. The brake on our housing programme has been applied much too severely, and unless it is released very soon, we may never be able to make up the leeway. We cannot be contented with our present rate of progress—with slum clearance still to be tackled and the large number of applicants still on the waiting list.

“ POINTS ” SYSTEM.

The “ Points ” system continues to operate satisfactorily on the whole. Up to the end of the year 5,750 applications had been pointed by this Department, and 2,823 visits were made during the year by the Lady Housing Inspector checking changes of circumstances and making a final check on pointage and suitability of tenants prior to consideration of applications by the House Management Sub-Committee.

DISINFESTATION OF BUG-INFESTED FURNITURE AND BEDDING.

During the year 722 houses were examined for the presence of bed bugs prior to removal of tenants to Corporation houses. In 18 cases evidence of bugs was found, and arrangements were made for the dis-

infestation of the furniture by cyanide gas and the bedding by steam, before delivery of the furniture and bedding to the Corporation houses.

I wish to record my appreciation of the continued co-operation of Mr. McIntosh, Governor of Bertha Home, in the carrying out of these arrangements.

OVERCROWDING.

By the operation of the "Points" system, cases of overcrowding and lack of proper sex separation automatically receive priority of consideration in the allocation of Corporation houses, and the policy of controlled decanting of existing Corporation tenants reduces overcrowding in the Housing Schemes.

The Town Council has considered the question of granting 4-apartment houses to suitable applicants who had already been allocated 3-apartment houses, but who had not obtained occupancy owing to the continued shortage of that type of house. It has been agreed to allocate 4-apartment houses to suitable tenants, both from existing Town Council tenants and from the list of persons who had already received allocations but had not obtained occupancy.

Up to the end of the year 1950 families had been accommodated in temporary, permanent, decanted and requisitioned houses during the post-war housing efforts.

GENERAL SANITATION.

During the year 502 nuisances were discovered, or complained of, and 87 intimations under Section 19 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, were served.

Thirteen notices under Section 20 of the Act were also served where no action had been taken to abate the nuisances following the intimation. 1,305 visits of inspection and enquiry were made.

The following are the particulars of the nuisances dealt with:—

Choked or defective drains	57
Choked or defective traps	10
Choked or defective gullies	32
Choked or defective rhones	5
Choked or defective rainwater conductors	5
Choked or defective sinks	9
Choked or defective W.Cs.	21
Burst pipes	7
Broken waste-pipes	2
Defective roofs	26
Dampness in houses	33
Smoke nuisances	12
Defective vents	6
Offensive smells	32
Accumulations	47
Defective stairs	2
Defective floors and woodwork	24
Defective ceilings and broken plaster	36
Defective walls	6
Defective gas pipes	7

Verminous houses	37
Refuse-pail nuisances	3
Ant nuisances	9
Insect nuisances	10
Domestic animal nuisances	8
Defective windows	7
Woodworm nuisance	3
Alleged contaminated water supplies	4
Dangerous gables	2
Defective paving	2
Failing to clean passages, stairs and W.C. apartments	13
Failing to clean courts	3
Nuisances of shaking mats	3
Miscellaneous	19

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SANITARY CONVENIENCES FOR HOUSES.

At 208 Crieff Road, where there were three houses with pail closets and a stand-pipe in the yard, three wash-down W.Cs. were provided in properly lighted and ventilated apartments, and sinks and water supply introduced to the houses.

PAINTING OF COMMON STAIRS AND PASSAGES.

The arrears of work which accumulated during the war years are being gradually overtaken, and during the past year 192 notices have been issued under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, Section 117, in respect of 137 stairs and passages, and in 78 cases painting had been completed.

CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.

The refuse is collected three times a week from premises in the centre of the City, along with certain other populated areas, including Corporation Housing Schemes, and twice a week from those in the outlying districts.

The refuse is conveyed to the Separation and Destruction Plant at Friarton, where all salvage is removed from it. The remainder is burnt and the dust and clinker taken to old Newhouse Quarry.

As regards street sweeping, there are 25 beats in the City, with a sweeper on each.

There is now in use a Karrier 750-gallon capacity Gully Emptier, which can also be used for street sprinkling and sewer flushing, and also a Lewin Road Sprinkler Sweeper Collector.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 4 Offensive Trades registered within the City:—

Slaughterhouse	1
Tallow Melting Works	1
Manure Manufacturers	2

No complaints were received regarding these premises, which continue to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

During the year the following work was carried out at schools within the City :—

Southern District School. Painting work carried out and resurfacing of playground completed.

Central District School. Painting work carried out.

Western District School. Electric light installed and painting work carried out.

The defective condition of the boys' urinals at Northern District School and Perth Academy has again been brought to the notice of the County Architect and these matters are receiving attention.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the past year 118 visits of inspection were made under the Factories Act, 1937. The following acts or defaults were brought to the notice of the occupiers:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness	11	11	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:—					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	6	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	22	20	—	3	—

At the end of the year there were 225 mechanical and 51 non-mechanical factories on the Register, as detailed in the following tables :—

FACTORIES.

Non-Mechanical.

Bakers	3	Picture Framers	2
Bottle Washers	1	Plumbers	6
Coffin Furnishers	1	Saddlers	3
Cycle Repairers	3	Stone Block Makers	1
Dressmakers	8	Tailors	7
Electricians	3	Tinsmiths	1
Golf Club Repairers	1	Upholsterers	2
Ham Curers	1	Weighing Machine Repairers	1
Jewellery Repairers	1	Wireless Repairers	1
Joiners	4		—
Paint Mixers	1		51

FACTORIES.

Mechanical.

Aerated Water and Beer Bottlers	4	Laundries	12
Asphalt Makers	2	Linen Weavers	1
Bakers	22	Loco. & Wagon Repairers	1
Blacksmiths	2	Manure Manufacturers	2
Bookbinders	2	Meal Grinders	2
Boot Repairers	7	Milk Pasteurisers	3
Brass Finishers	1	Motor Vehicle Repairers	22
Brush Makers	1	Oilcake Crushers	1
Builders	1	Oat Clippers	1
Bee Appliance Makers	1	Opticians	1
Cabinet Makers	3	Provender Mills	1
Coach Builders	2	Plumbers	2
Coach Painters	1	Photographers	2
Cutlery Repairers	1	Printers	10
Cycle Repairers	2	Rag Sorters	1
Concrete Pole Makers	1	Rat Poison Makers	1
Cylinder Repairers	1	Sack Repairers	1
Dressmakers	3	Sand Screeners	1
Dyers	3	Sausage Manufacturers	20
Electrical Engineers	4	Sawmillers	4
Electricity Generators	2	Sculptors	2
Engineers	7	Stone Crushers	1
Firewood Cutters	1	Sweet Manufacturers	1
Fishing Tackle Makers	2	Sheet Metal Workers	1
Flour Millers	1	Saw Repairers	1
Gas Manufacturers	2	Tailors	4
Glass Blowers	3	Tallow Makers	1
Ham Curers	1	Tile Slabbers	1
Ice Cream Merchants	1	Tinsmiths	1
Ice Makers	1	Tractor Repairers	2
Iron Founders	1	Tripe Cleaners	1
Ironmongery Repairers	1	Upholsterers	1
Joiners	15	Whisky Blenders	8
Jute Spinners	1	Wire Workers	1
Jewellers	6	Wood Turners	1

COMMON LODGING-HOUSE.

At The Model Lodging-House, 14-36 Skinnergate, the high standard of cleanliness continues to be maintained and no cause for complaint was found.

HOUSE LET-IN-LODGINGS.

The Hostel, Princes Street, also continues to be kept in a satisfactory condition, despite the unavoidable overcrowding due to lack of suitable alternative accommodation.

TENTS AND VANS.

Ground at Scoonieburn which was occupied by holiday campers was visited. The conditions were satisfactory and the ground was cleared at the end of a week. Two other caravans were inspected and found satisfactory.

Inspection of the Showground on the South Inch during the periods of the fairs showed that the caravans were kept in very good condition and no cause for complaint was found.

BURIALS.

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Department made arrangements for the burials of bodies of 4 adults who had died, or been found dead in the City, and where no other suitable arrangements for the disposal of the bodies had been made.

CITY MORTUARY.

The City Mortuary, Speygate, continues to be kept in a satisfactory condition under the control of this Department.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The three burial grounds within the Burgh are kept in a satisfactory condition under the supervision of the Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries.

One exhumation and reburial was carried out satisfactorily at Wellshill Cemetery by warrant of the Sheriff under the supervision of this Department.

PIGSTYES.

Only one complaint of alleged nuisance from the keeping of pigs was received during the year, but on investigation no cause for further action was found.

RENT AND MORTGAGE (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS.

Applications for certificates in terms of the Rent and Mortgage (Restrictions) Acts were received in respect of three houses, but conditions did not warrant the granting of certificates.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

RATS AND MICE (SCOTLAND) ORDER, 1943.

In co-operation with the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, operations were carried out for the destruction of rats and mice in various premises throughout the City.

As a result of these operations, 502 rats and 148 mice were destroyed. Special attention was given to infestations at new housing sites during

building operations, the refuse dump at Newhouse Quarry, institutions, works, mills and other premises.

In addition to the work carried out by the Department of Agriculture operators, 57 complaints were received and 139 visits of inspection were made by Sanitary Inspectors, when advice and assistance were given to occupiers of infested properties.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following figures are given by the Water Engineer in connection with the water supply to the City :—

Total quantity of water distributed	1,088,290,000 gallons.
Quantity supplied by meter	334,543,000 gallons.
Domestic supply. Gallons per head, per day	47.9

Samples of water continue to be taken at monthly intervals. The bacteriologist's reports on these samples were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE.

New sewers were laid as follows :—

Sewer at Tulloch Road : 18 in. dia.—180 lin. yards.

The drains of all new houses and other premises were subjected to the smoke test by the Burgh Surveyor's Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Sixty-two visits of enquiry were made in connection with Infectious Disease, and disinfection was carried out where required. Special attention was given to Tuberculosis cases and also after all deaths from this disease. Notification is made by the Registrar to this Department of all deaths from Tuberculosis and arrangements are made for the disinfection of the house and the destruction of infected bedding wherever possible.

Bacteriological tests were made of the sewage in the three main sewer outfalls. No disease-bearing organisms were found.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

The Public Swimming Baths at Dunkeld Road continue to be kept in a very satisfactory condition under the supervision of the Superintendent. A sample of water from the main pool was taken for bacteriological examination. The report showed that the water was sterile. As the sample was taken when there was a large number of bathers in the pool, the result indicated that the purification of the baths water was being carried out most efficiently.

SHIPS INSPECTION.

There were no foreign vessels arriving at Perth Harbour during the year.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk Supply. All byres, creameries and retail premises were inspected regularly, and very little cause for complaint was found, the terms of the various Acts, Orders and Regulations being, on the whole, complied with as far as possible.

Dairy Bye-laws. No serious contraventions of the Bye-laws were found and the methods of milking and handling were quite satisfactory.

MILK AND DAIRIES (SCOTLAND) ORDER, 1934.

Apart from the non-observance of Article 13 relating to the sealing or locking of cans before delivery to common carriers, the terms of the Orders were generally observed.

As requested by the Department of Health, the following particulars are given :—

(a) The number of retail purveyors of milk	45
(b) The number of producers and wholesale dealers who do not sell milk by retail (one of whom sells only a very small quantity by retail in the neighbourhood)	3
(c) The approximate average number of cows in registered premises	51
(d) The number of dairies exempted from registration	—
(e) The approximate number of cows in premises exempted from registration	—

There are now only three producers in the City, one of whom holds a licence for the production of Tuberculin-Tested Milk.

A recent census of the milk supplies in the City showed the quantities and percentages of graded and ordinary milk sold daily as :—

	Gallons.	%
Pasteurised	2,824	74.2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	478	12.6
Tuberculin-Tested	145	3.8
Certified	311	8.2
Ordinary	47	1.2
	<hr/> 3,805	<hr/> 100.0

In view of the very small quantity of non-designated milk sold in the City, the Town Council agreed that the Minister of Food be asked to exercise his powers under the Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949, to declare the City a specified area within which the sale to the public of non-designated milk will be prohibited.

SCOTTISH MILK TESTING SCHEME.

The laboratories at the City of Perth Co-operative Society Ltd. Creamery, Feus Road, and the Perth Creamery Co., Ltd., Kinnoull Causeway, have been approved for the purposes of the Scottish Milk Testing Scheme, and the tests laid down in the scheme are carried out regularly by the milk testers employed by these firms.

The outgoing milk is subjected to the tests laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Orders (Scotland), in addition to the Methylene Blue (Hiscox) Test.

The following details are given of the work done under the scheme :—

City of Perth Co-operative Society Ltd.

The result of Resazurin tests showed 79 samples failing to pass the first weekly test and 20 failing to pass second and third consecutive weekly test. A total of 451½ gallons was rejected.

Perth Creamery Co., Ltd.

The scheme was started in this laboratory on 27.7.49, and up to the end of the year there were 42 failures in the first weekly test and 11 on the second and third consecutive weekly tests.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The following table gives the results of the bacteriologist's reports on the examination of graded milk :—

EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

	Samples	Bacterial Count		Phosphatase		Methylene Blue		Coliform	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	50	50	—	48	2	50	—	50	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	36	31	5	34	2	35	1	32	4
Certified (County)	16	15	1	—	—	16	—	14	2
Tuberculin-Tested : City Producers	3	3	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
County Producers	5	4	1	—	—	4	1	4	1
School Milk—									
Pasteurised	15	15	—	15	—	15	—	15	—
Total	125	118	7	97	4	123	2	118	7

Following certain investigations regarding the Perth Dairy Company, Ltd., 11 Princes Street, Perth, I reported to the Health Committee that this Company, which holds Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designations "Tuberculin-Tested" and "Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised)" had been receiving supplies of milk in bulk from a firm outwith the City which was not duly licensed to use the special designation "Tuberculin-Tested" in relation to the milk supplied, and that the receipt of such milk was not shown in the records which the Company was required to keep under the conditions of the licences. I recommended that the licences should be revoked.

A special meeting of the Town Council took up consideration of this matter. The managing director of the Company and his solicitor were in attendance and the latter admitted on the Company's behalf that an error had been made, but undertook that this would not recur. The Council agreed that the licences be not revoked, but that the Company be informed that the Council took a serious view of the matter and be given a very strong warning against any further breach of their certificates.

During the year a new bottle-washing plant, filling and capping machine were installed at the City of Perth Co-operative Society's Creamery, Feus Road. The Society has also installed a new Pasteurising Plant for the treatment of Tuberculin-Tested milk, and a licence has been issued to the Society for the use of the designation "Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised)" in relation to the milk.

Complete repainting of this creamery was carried out during the year.

The new premises of the Perth Creamery Co., Ltd., at Glenearn Road have recently been completed and are now in use.

SCHOOL MILK.

I am pleased to be able to report once again that the bacteriological results of all samples of school milk taken during the year were entirely satisfactory.

TESTING OF NON-DESIGNATED MILK.

In accordance with the Department of Health Circular No. 17 1947, the following table shows the results of the testing of non-designated milk. All samples were submitted to the plate count and coliform tests, in addition to the methylene blue (Hiscox) test :—

	Samples	Bacterial Count		Methylene Blue		Coliform	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw Milk.							
City							
Producers	13	13	—	12	1	10	3
Other Areas	5	5	—	3	2	4	1
Total	18	18	—	15	3	14	4

ICE CREAM.

During the year good progress was made in the carrying out of structural alterations and the provision of plant and equipment necessary for compliance with the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948.

At the end of the year 12 premises had been registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream, and 21 premises and one vehicle for the storage and sale of ice cream.

In all instances it has been possible by negotiation and advice to have steps taken to comply with the regulations without recourse to official refusal of any applications or appeals to the Sheriff. There are now only 4 applications outstanding, upon which consideration has been deferred pending completion of structural works. It will be noted that the number of registered premises in which ice cream is manufactured is only 12, and it can be said that the introduction of the Regulations has made for a very definite improvement in the conditions under which this commodity is manufactured in the City and the reduction in the number of such premises has made control more effective.

Regular inspection was made of all registered premises and very little cause for complaint was found. The main difficulty was in obtaining delivery and in the fitting up of the necessary plant and equipment, and in dealing with faults and replacement of plant in which defects were found after use.

The traders in the City have shown marked keenness to comply with our requirements, and in some instances have even requested that samples should be taken as often as possible, to satisfy themselves that they are maintaining a satisfactory standard.

The following table gives the results of samples taken during the year for chemical examination. :—

No. of Sample	Fat	Total Solids
55	3.02	29.18
56	3.31	27.66
57	3.08	29.54
58	2.95	24.68
59	2.53	28.02
66	2.99	22.00
67	2.85	24.80
68	4.30	22.77
69	8.19	46.57
70	3.89	17.07
77	4.12	24.32
78	3.24	23.74
79	2.77	28.66
80	4.25	25.20
81	2.74	31.94
82	2.56	26.94
117	2.67	26.80
118	3.97	23.97
119	4.38	24.54
120	6.84	31.94
121	3.09	24.74
123	2.43	23.57

The average fat content was 3.64 per cent and average total solids 26.75 per cent.

The following table gives the results of samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination :—

No. of Sample	Plate Count	Coliform	No. of Sample	Plate Count	Coliform
1	300	Absent	15	2,600	Absent
2	11,000	"	16	380,000	"
3	200	"	17	4,400	"
4	210,000	"	18	2,200	"
5	200	"	19	6,400	"
6	56,000	Present	20	7,700	"
7	480,000	Present	21	31,000	"
8	900	Absent	22	216,000	"
9	500	"	23	28,700	"
10	200	"	24	sterile	"
11	300	"	25	80,000	Present
12	77,600	"	26	3,200	Absent
13	1,400,000	Present	27	1,600	"
14	Sterile	Absent	28	23,700	"
			29	23,400	"

The Magistrates have given consideration to the question of vehicles from areas outwith the City retailing ice cream in the City streets. There are at present no powers to make bye-laws covering this position. Since the Ice Cream Regulations only require registration of such vehicles in the district in which they are ordinarily kept, it is difficult to keep trace and control of vehicles which come into the City from widely scattered areas at odd times, especially at week-ends.

I suggest that the Regulations should be amended to provide for registration of vehicles in the areas where ice cream is actually sold. Such registration is already required under the Milk & Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914, in respect of the sale of milk from vehicles. A requirement of such registration would also be of invaluable assistance in the investigation of any possible outbreaks of the diseases specified in the Regulations.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat. The following table supplied by the Superintendent of the Abattoir gives particulars of animals slaughtered in the Public Abattoir and the quantity of meat condemned there during the year.

Class of Animals	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs.) of Condemned Meat and Offals
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	
Cattle .	3,237	88	77	57,650
Sheep .	22,610	62	47	3,044
Pigs .	905	10	31	1,085
Calves .	1,085	12	2	774

The Public Abattoir continues to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Other Foods. The following table gives details of unsound foodstuffs seized and condemned as unfit for human consumption during the past year :—

2950 lbs.	Cattle Gut	6 pkts.	Oats
2168 lbs.	Cattle Tripe	2 pkts.	Jelly
39 lbs.	Cattle Feet	1 pkt	Baking Soda
332 lbs.	Sheep Paunches	2 lbs.	Raisins
267 lbs.	Venison	711 lbs.	Sugar
63 lbs.	Rabbits	464 lbs.	Butter
37 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Bacon	84 lbs.	Fondant
58 lbs.	Beef	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and	161 boxes Cheese
870 tins	Meat	213	Loaves
11241 lbs.	Vegetables	3 tins	Coffee
299 tins	Fish	44 tins and	18 jars Sauce
19 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones	Fish	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Lard
545 tins	Fruit	206 lbs.	Coarse Salt
546 tins and 110 pkts	Soup	4 tins	Fish Paste
16 tins	Pudding	2 tins	Cod Roe
201 tins	Jam.	300 bundles	Carrots
652 tins	Evaporated Milk	36 jars	Beetroot
81 tins	Condensed Milk	3 jars	Mince meat
3 tins	Syrup	11 tins	Vitacup
4 tins	Treacle	72 lbs.	Dates
414 lbs.	Flour	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.	Cloves
90 lbs.	Soya Flour	2 jars	Chocolate Spread
189 pkts.	Cake Mixture	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Sago
107 pkts.	Semolina	35 lbs.	Ham
76 tins	Spaghetti	29 bars	Chocolate

During the summer months quantities of cattle gut, which had been consigned from Stornoway, Elgin and other slaughterhouses in the north of Scotland, were found on delivery to gut-cleaners' premises in Perth, to be unfit for processing and use as sausage casings. This gut was consigned in barrels without being packed in ice, or other means taken to prevent decomposition during transit. Delay in delivery in some instances amounted to three days.

Certificates were issued declaring the gut as being unfit for human consumption.

Representations were made by the Area Slaughterhouse Agent of the Ministry of Food regarding these condemnations, but inspection of subsequent consignments by the Medical Officer of Health and the Veterinary Surgeon who acts as Meat Inspector for the Local Authority, and trial processing of the gut, confirmed the opinion that it was unfit for human consumption, and certificates were issued accordingly.

Considerable quantities of foodstuffs are rendered unfit for human consumption due to lack of proper precautions being taken during transport and careless handling and storage. The following may be cited as typical examples :—

2 pails of Fondant were contaminated by arsenical sheep dip paste, due to pails of these materials having been placed together in a railway waggon and the pails of sheep dip leaking.

300 bundles of Carrots were overheated during transit in a closed railway van and rendered unfit.

309 lbs. of Sugar were contaminated by cats during storage in a grocer's shop, and 224 lbs. of Sugar were contaminated by methylated spirit during transit.

120 lbs. of Butter were contaminated by oil during transit.

140 lbs. of Flour were contaminated by paraffin during transit.

I think it is only right to call special attention to such cases of avoidable contamination and wastage of foodstuffs. In these days of food shortages it is indeed tragic to have to condemn such foodstuffs owing to lack of proper care during handling. There must also be large quantities wasted which are never brought to our notice.

Judging by the results of analyses of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Acts, the adulteration of foodstuffs other than milk and spirits is nowadays a rare occurrence. The risks of contamination, however, are in my opinion, very much higher. There is definite need for a greater measure of care and protection of foodstuffs in the journey from the manufacturer to the consumer.

Large quantities of canned foods have also to be condemned, and in many cases this appears to be due to the foods having been kept in store for unduly long periods. Rationing, and the recent "points" system, may have tended to this, as there was not such a quick turnover as there might have been under ordinary circumstances.

There is no doubt that the spotlight of public opinion, which up to now has been more or less focussed on milk and ice cream, is beginning to sweep round a very much wider range of foodstuffs and stricter measures of protection will be demanded and eventually forthcoming.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The following table shows the number of samples taken under the above Acts :—

Article	Genuine	Not Genuine	Total
Sweet Milk	15	1	16
Certified Milk	5	2	7
Pasteurised Milk	6	—	6
T.T. Milk	15	—	15
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	2	—	2
Butter	4	—	4
Peanut Butter	1	—	1
Sugar	3	—	3
Tea	1	—	1
Coffee	1	—	1
Coffee Essence	1	—	1
Margarine	1	—	1
Ice Cream	22	—	22
Baking Powder	1	—	1
Baking Soda	1	—	1
Boracic Powder	1	—	1
Meat Paste	2	—	2
Sausages	5	—	5
Liver Sausage	1	—	1
Mince	1	—	1
Sausage Rolls	4	—	4
Pastries	4	—	4
Farinoca	1	—	1
Semolina	1	—	1
Whisky	4	—	4
Glycerine	1	—	1
Gregory's Powder	1	—	1
Mixed Pickles	3	—	3
Meringues	2	—	2
Nuts	1	—	1
Castor Oil	1	—	1
Lemon, Glycerine and Honey	1	—	1
Fish Paste	1	—	1
Gelatine	1	—	1
Liquid Paraffin	1	—	1
Pepper	1	—	1
Skimmed Milk Powder	1	—	1
Barley Powder with Milk	1	—	1
Salmon	5	—	5
Kidney Soup	1	—	1
Cream Trifle	1	—	1
Beetroot	1	—	1
Potted Meat	1	—	1
Jellied Chicken	1	—	1
Camphorated Oil	1	—	1
Aspirin	2	—	2
Lard	1	—	1
Chewing Gum	1	—	1
Boiled Sweets	1	—	1
Condensed Full Cream Milk	1	—	1
Epsom Salts	1	—	1
Tomato Ketchup	1	—	1
Fish Cakes	1	—	1
Jam	1	—	1
Mincemeat	1	—	1
Mustard	1	—	1
Cake Flour	1	—	1
TOTAL	143	3	146

Regarding the non-genuine sample of Sweet Milk, this was taken on delivery from a firm of producers in the County to one of the creameries in the City. The Analyst reported thus :—" that the said sample is not genuine in respect that it is deficient in milk-fat to the extent of 6 per cent or thereby, and is also deficient in milk solids other than milk-fat to the extent of 41 per cent or thereby. The sample contained 2.81 per cent of milk-fat and 4.99 per cent of milk solids other than milk-fat, whereas genuine Sweet Milk should contain not less than 3 per cent of milk-fat and 8.5 per cent of milk solids other than milk-fat, according to the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901."

A covering letter from the Analyst stated that the freezing point (Hortvet) test showed the presence of at least 35 per cent of added water.

The firm concerned appeared in the Burgh Police Court and were found guilty after trial. A fine of £10 was imposed.

It was found that the Regulations made under the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943, including the Labelling of Food Order, 1946, and amending Orders, were generally being observed, and there was no cause for action following sampling.

A gradual improvement was observed in the sanitary condition of premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale. Defects found in the course of inspection were brought to the notice of the occupiers and the necessary steps taken to correct these.

A pleasing feature is the increasing number of premises in which cold stores or refrigerators have been installed for the storage of perishable foods, and glass-protected counters provided for the display of food-stuffs.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

Premises of listed sellers of poisons under Part II of the Poisons List were visited, and advice was given as to the requirements of the Acts and Rules.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

Two samples of Feeding Stuffs were procured and parts of same forwarded to the Public Analyst. One sample was satisfactory, but in the other case, a sample of Meat and Bone Meal, the Analyst reported as follows :—

“	Per Cent.	Guarantee
Albuminoids	46.05	47 ⁰ / ₁₀₀
Phosphoric Acid	14.10	10.5 ⁰ / ₁₀₀
Oil	3.75	5 ⁰ / ₁₀₀

and am of opinion that in respect of Albuminoids the composition of the article agrees with the statement contained in the statutory statement within the limits of variation as laid down in the Regulations dated 11 8.32. Also in respect of Oil there is a deficiency of 1.25 per cent, and this deficiency is outwith the limits of variation as laid down in the above Regulations. There is, however, an excess of 3.60 per cent of

Phosphoric Acid, and this excess is outwith the limits of variation as laid down in the above Regulations, but is not to the prejudice of the purchaser."

The deficiency in Oil was taken up with the firm concerned, who in turn referred it to the actual suppliers, who undertook to take all possible steps to ensure that the statutory statements and analyses would agree in future.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Increasing attention was given during the year to the question of public conveniences.

The consent of the Department of Health has been given to the erection of a new convenience on a site near the junction of Dunkeld Road and Crieff Road, and work on its erection has commenced.

A comprehensive report on the condition of all public conveniences was prepared by the Burgh Surveyor and myself, and submitted to the Health Committee. It was agreed that a start should be made with the reconstruction of the Ladies' and Gent.'s Conveniences at Canal Street and Speygate, and the Gent.'s Conveniences at King Street, with a view to providing more adequate and modern accommodation.

The amount collected from the penny-in-the-slot locks during the year was £930 9s. 11d., compared with £899 13s. 3d. in 1948. £756 18s. 1d. was collected from the Ladies' Conveniences and £173 11s. 10d. from the Gent.'s.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation which I have received from Dr. J. M. Aitken, Medical Officer of Health, and the assistance given by the officials of other Departments.

My Depute, Mr. A. A. Warner, has completed another year of service to the Department with unfailing loyalty. Mr. Alex. McEwan, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, has also acted as Detention Officer at the Abattoir during the illness of the Superintendent and rendered good service. To all other members of the staff I extend thanks for enthusiastic support in the varied work of the Department.

I am,

My Lord Provost, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. McBRYDE, M.R.San.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

